

*REGULAR = 2+ DAYS.

LNC 98

NORTHERN STONE CIRCLE

24TH MAY - 24TH JUNE, 1998

TRENCH SUPERVISOR: DIANE SPROAT

AND:

SIMON SMITH - (REGULAR)

SHARON ADNISH - (REGULAR)

KEN YANDALL - (REGULAR)

SEREMY STAFFORD - DEITSCH

ELIZABETH STONE - (REGULAR)

FAY STEVENS - (REGULAR)

JUSTIN RUSSELL - (REGULAR)

IAN MARTIN

MARK LANDEMORE

CLIFF SAMSON

CHRIS DERHAM — (REGULAR)

ASH RENNIE

ANDREW MAYFIELD

BEN REYNOLDS

GARY ROBINSON

HANNAH STEYNE - (REGULAR)

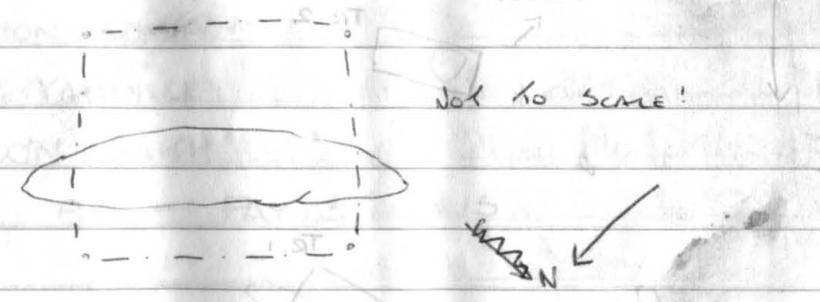
Piglet

MONDAY, 25TH MAY, 1998

11-30 AM

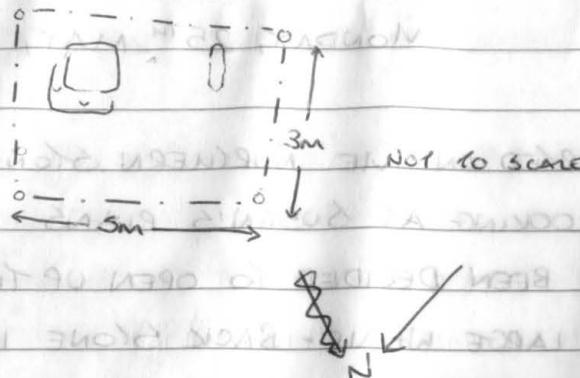
WORK HAS STARTED ON THE NORTHERN STONE
CIRCLE. AFTER LOOKING AT SUSTIN'S PLANS

(PLAN 1) IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO OPEN UP TWO
TRENCHES. THE LARGE WHALE-BACK STONE IN THE
ROUGHLY IN THE CENTRE OF THE CIRCLE WILL
HAVE A 5M X 2M ACROSS IT TO DETERMINE
WHETHER IT IS NATURAL OR A STONE-HOLE EXISTS.

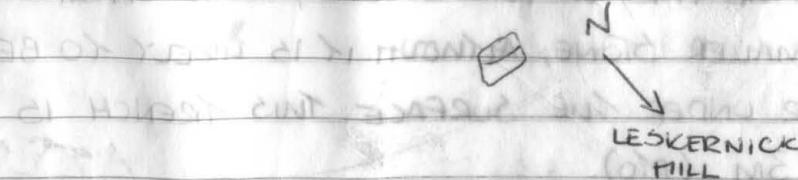


THE SECOND TRENCH IS IDENTIFYING WHETHER OR
NOT ONE OF THE MORE OBVIOUS STONES WHICH
COULD BE PART OF THE CIRCLE, ALSO ENCOMPASSING
A SMALLER STONE, ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY TO BE
BIGGER UNDER THE SURFACE. THIS TRENCH IS
5M X 3M (P10).

(2)

WIDER PICTURE

N
BARROW.
↓
TR.2



(3)

MUCH DISCUSSION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE POSITION OF THE SP TURF PILE - CHRIS TILLEY, APPARENTLY, WOULD LIKE IT TO LOOK LIKE THE HILL TO THE S. OF THE 'CIRCLE' (BEACON) AND FOR IT TO BE IN A FOREGROUND PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HILL. THE WILDLIFE COULD WELL HAVE OWNER IDEAS!

WORKING WITH ME TODAY:

SHARON ADNITT

KEN YANDALL

SIMON SMITH

JOINED BY - FAY STEVENS

(4)

TUESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1998

1.35pm.

SHOWERS TODAY - HAD TO ~~REBUILD~~ COMPLETELY REBUILD TURF PILE AFTER IT GOT OBLITERATED BY CATTLE. IT IS NOW SQUARE + APPARENTLY LOOKS V. IMPRESSIVE FROM LESKERNICK - IT SEEMS THE TURF PILE + SPOTL HEAP ARE GETTING MORE ATTENTION THAN THE ACTUAL TRENCH.

FAR HAS GONE BACK TO FF1 + THE AREAS ARE NOW BEING TROWELLED BACK.

(5)

WEDNESDAY, 27TH MAY, 1998

10- 11-45 am

THE TURF PILE IS INTACT - CRIS-CROSSING FLAG POLES SEEM TO WORK. CHRIS TILLEY HAS ARRIVED AND IS PUTTING LARGE ORANGE FLAG POLES IN THE STONE ROW. HMM...

Yesterday (26th) I found a peg when shifting dirt in the monolith trench (trench 1) : has someone already excavated in here? Proceedings of the Cornish Archaeological Society 1911? No. The peg is from 2 years ago. I think the monolith once stood brooding over the landscape solitary & enigmatic. The base (for my money) would be the blunt eastern end. Meanwhile Diane thinks the pointed end was the base. I have the urge to tunnel underneath & shake hands with whoever is on the other side (from underneath of course). Perhaps the monolith should have a name: Fred is the agreed name.

(6)

Fred is now being disturbed from his primordial sleep. Do our travels tickle him? Does he suddenly feel naked exposed in his fallen state?

Once he stood proud & solitary: people respected him. He was at the centre of it all - only Wilma, otherwise known as the Queen, was once more important. But Fred, being Fred stood his ground and dominated the plain with his phallic imperialism. Meanwhile

Wilma didn't have to try so hard - that's why she's still there.

- A case of Quoitus interruptus!

One side of the trench is nearly ready to be photographed. The large stone (Fred) is definitely placed there by humans. Can't say yet which way it was facing. I think it could be aligned to the compass. Back to borrow common or carbaron tour.

(7)

10 to 4.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BIT I'M AFRAID. AGAINST A BACKDROP OF A WHITE GOLF-COURSE LOOKING FLAGS REPRESENTING THE STONE ROW, TRENCH 1 HAS NOW HAD ALL THE PEATY BELOW-SURF LAYER REMOVED AND SHOULD BE READY FOR PHOTOGRAPHING BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY. IT IS VERY FRUSTRATING AS HOW SLOWLY EVERYTHING MOVES - MIKE + SUE HAVE JUST BEEN OVER FOR A 'DISCUSSION' WHICH, ALTHOUGH VERY PRODUCTIVE, HAS PUSHED THE PHOTOGRAPHY BACK ANOTHER 1/2 HRS. MORE STONES HAVE APPEARED UNDER THE SURFACE, AND IN THE FAR NORTH CORNER, THE PEAT HAS PLUNGED DOWN INTO A HOLLOW NEXT TO A LARGE STONE (C. MIN LENGTH AS IT IS EXPOSED NOW) ALONG THE NE SIDE OF THE TRENCH (PLAN OVER PAGE). MIKE HAS SURMISED THAT THIS AND THE SMALLER STONES EXPOSED AROUND IT ARE CULTURAL. A POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD THAT THESE WERE USED AS LEVERING STONES? ON TRENCH 2, THE POSSIBILITY OF A STONE CIRCLE IS LOOKING VERY BLEAK - ON REMOVING THE PEATY LAYER

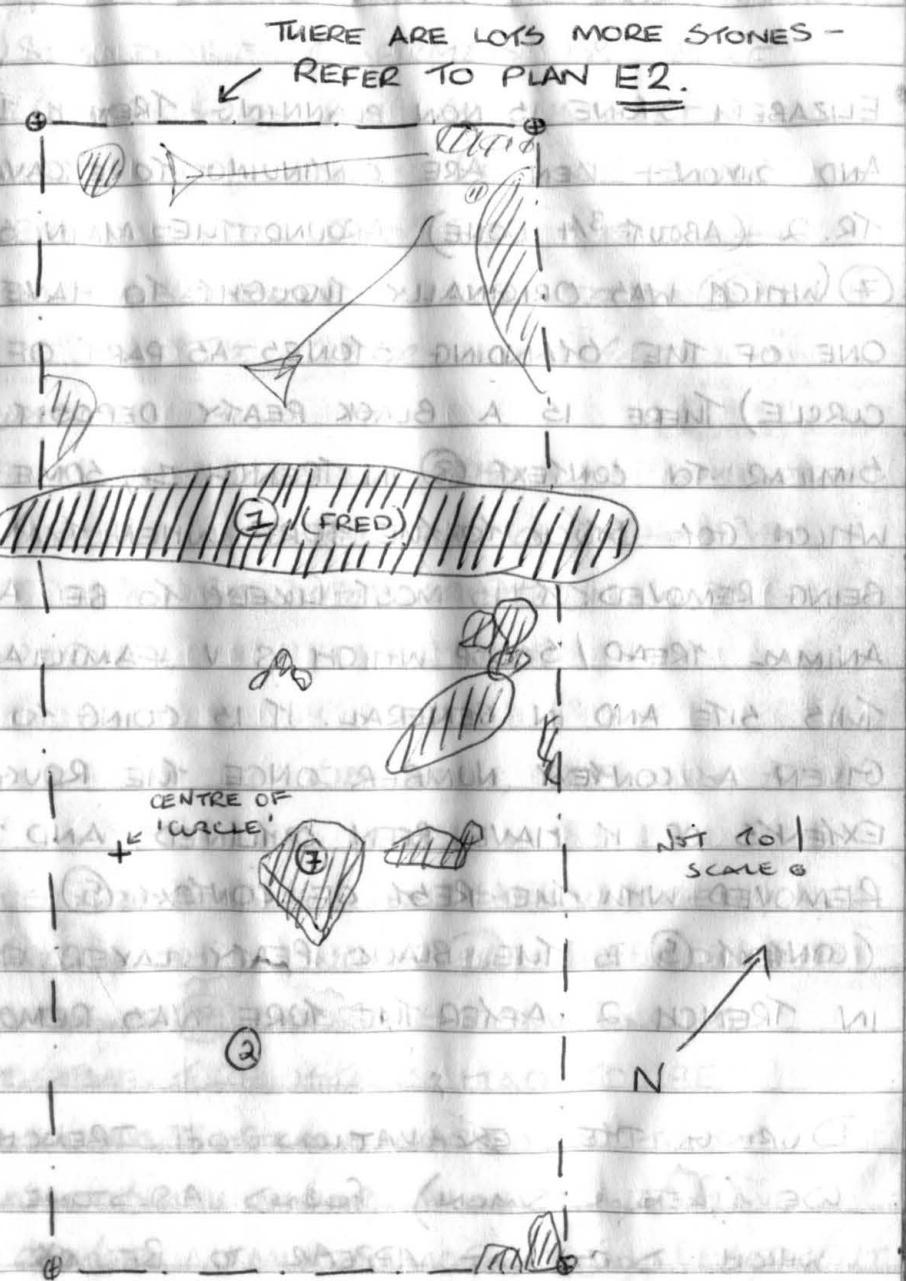
(8)

THERE, @ THREE V. LARGE AND V. FLAT ROUNDED STONES HAVE BEEN REVEALED. WHILST THE PEAKY LAYERS HAVE BEEN EXCAVATED, ^{SMALL} PATCHY DEPOSITS OF ^{LIGHT ORANGE-BROWN} FIBROUS MATERIAL HAVE APPEARED 1/2-WAY DOWN WHICH SIMPLY CAN INDICATE THE PROCESS OF THE BUILDING UP OF THE PRESENT LAND SURFACE. I AM TRYING HARD TO ENGAGE FEELINGS ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE (WITHOUT THOSE @ ABSURD FLAGS) BUT I AM MORE ANXIOUS ABOUT GETTING THINGS DONE.

4-30pm EVN IN THE EVO IN THE COUNTRY - IT'S BEING PLEASANTLY BACK WALKING ON A CONCRETE DOME KEEPERED IN THE QUAKEZONE FEELING LESS ANXIOUS NOW SEREMY IS HERE WITH THE CAMERA - IT TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO, THE PACE OF THIS SITE, BUT IT IS THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE MATERIAL AND THE ^{GEO MORPHOLOGICAL} EXPERTISE THAT NEEDS TO BE ACQUIRED. THOUGH BUT! IT'S A SUNNY DAY.

TR. 1.

(6)



(10)

THURSDAY, 28TH MAY, 1998

ELIZABETH STONE IS NOW PLANNING TRENCH 1, AND SIMON + KEN ARE CONTINUING TO EXCAVATE TR. 2 (ABOUT 3/4 DONE). AROUND THE MAIN STONE (7) (WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE STANDING STONES AS PART OF THE CIRCLE) THERE IS A BLACK PEATY DEPOSIT, QUITE SIMILAR TO CONTEXT (8) IN TRENCH 1, SOME OF WHICH GOT STUCK TO THE TURF WHEN THAT WAS BEING REMOVED. IT IS MOST LIKELY TO BE AN ANIMAL TREAD / SCOOP WHICH IS V. FAMILIAR ON THIS SITE AND IN GENERAL. IT IS GOING TO BE GIVEN A CONTEXT NUMBER ONCE THE ROUGH EXTENTS OF IT HAVE BEEN OUTLINED, AND THEN REMOVED WITH THE REST OF CONTEXT (5).

(CONTEXT (5) IS THE BLACK PEATY LAYER EXPOSED IN TRENCH 2 AFTER THE TURF WAS REMOVED).

DURING THE EXCAVATION OF TRENCH 2 WE (KEN + SIMON) FOUND A STONE WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE NATURAL TO THE LOCAL AREA. ALTHOUGH

(11)

LYTCHED OUT IN JEOPARDY
THAT SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY MIKE WHEN HE COMES FOR AN INSPECTION. HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE TO THE SITE. IT WAS FOUND EMBEDDED IN CONTEXT (6) WHICH IS THE LAYER WE ARE EXCAVATING DOWN TO.

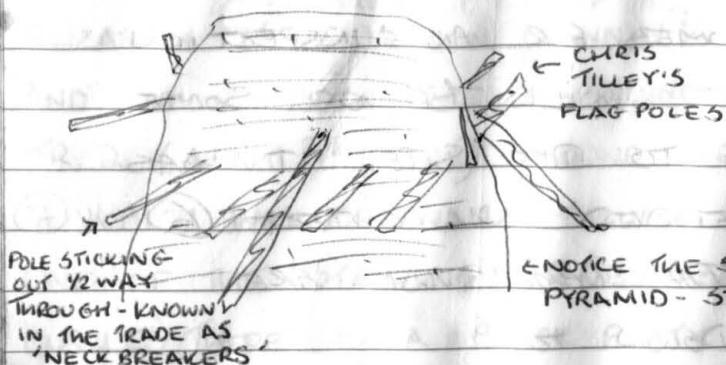
WITH ANY LUCK WE SHOULD COMPLETE TRENCH 2 BY THE END OF THE DAY SO IT CAN BE PHOTOGRAPHED AND PLANNED.

SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1998

4 OF US ARE TROWELLING: SIMON, KEN, LIZ + I, TAKING OUT CONTEXT (9) - THE HOLLOW AROUND STONE (7). WORK IS COMMENCING SLOWLY - THE TURF STACK HAD TO BE RE-BUILT ONCE AGAIN - CURIOUSLY 'THEY' LEFT THE SPOIL HEAP ALONE. WE HAVE NOW CREATED A MUCH MORE COW-DETERRENT TURF STACK - THE NEW 'TURF 2000®'

(12)

LATEST MODEL IN TURF SECURITY:-



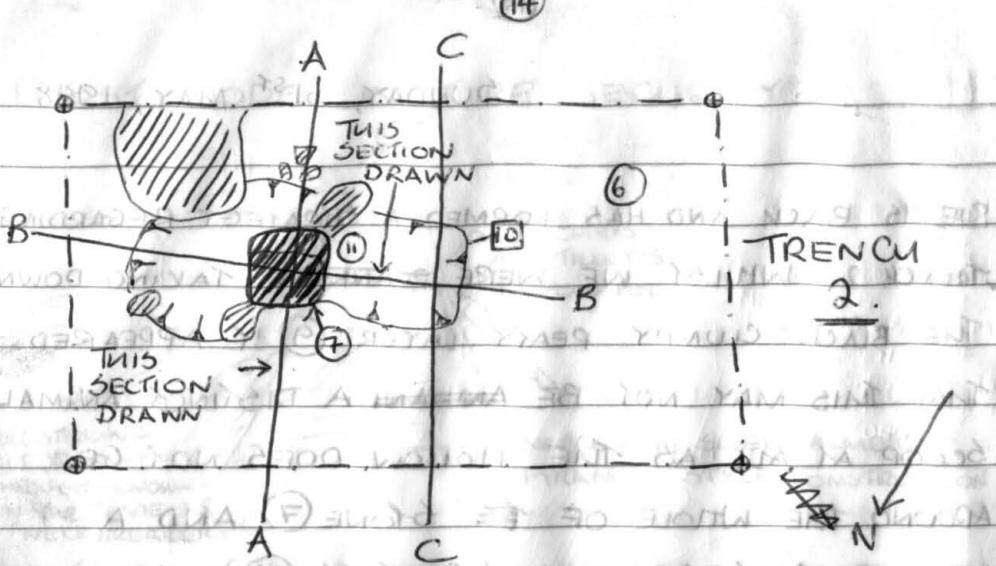
ALTHOUGH CAREFUL MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN, IT IS CLEAR WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH 'NORMAL' COWS. THESE ARE RITUAL COWS. ~~THAT ACCORDING~~ THERE IS A PARTICULAR SPECIMEN THAT LOOKS LIKE A LARGE SHEEP. I HAD A CALL FROM AN AGENT MULDER WHO IS INTERESTED IN ASKING US QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE COWS.

~~THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE.~~

(13)

SUNDAY, 31ST MAY, 1998.

SUE IS BACK AND HAS FORMED A STRATEGY REGARDING TRENCH 2. WHILST WE WERE PLANNING TAKING DOWN THE BLACK CLUMPY PEAKY LAYER (9) IT APPEARED THAT THIS MAY NOT BE AN ~~AN~~ A DISTINCT ANIMAL SCOOP AT ALL AS THE HOLLOW DOES NOT GO AROUND THE WHOLE OF ~~THE~~ STONE (7) AND A NEW CONTEXT APPEARS (CONTEXT (11)) WHICH IS A PATCHY LIGHT BEIGE + PEAKY BLACK LAYER, APPEARING ABOUT 10 CM BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE LAND SURFACE (6). SEEING AS THIS MAY BE A CULTURAL FEATURE, A SLIGHT CHANGE IN PLAN IS BEING MADE. WE ARE TAKING TWO SECTIONS DIRECTLY THROUGH THE STONE (7) AND JUSTIN IS DRAWING THE PROFILE SO FAR, OF WHICH THE CUP NO. IS (10). PTO FOR A DIAGRAM →



A 1:20 PLAN IS THEN GOING TO BE DRAWN. THE NEXT INTENTION WILL THEN BE TO TAKE DOWN THE LAND SURFACE (6) WHILST KEEPING A SECTION AT C. THIS WILL OBLITERATE THE CORNER OF THE FEATURE (10) - IS THIS THE BEST THING TO DO?

IT WILL GIVE SOME IDEA AS TO THE DEPTH OF DEPOSITS.

AS FOR INTERPRETATION, THIS IS A CULTURAL
'HOLLOW' ~~ONE~~, POSSIBLY THERE HAS BEEN AN
ATTEMPT TO PRISE OUT THE LARGE STONE (?) ?

14

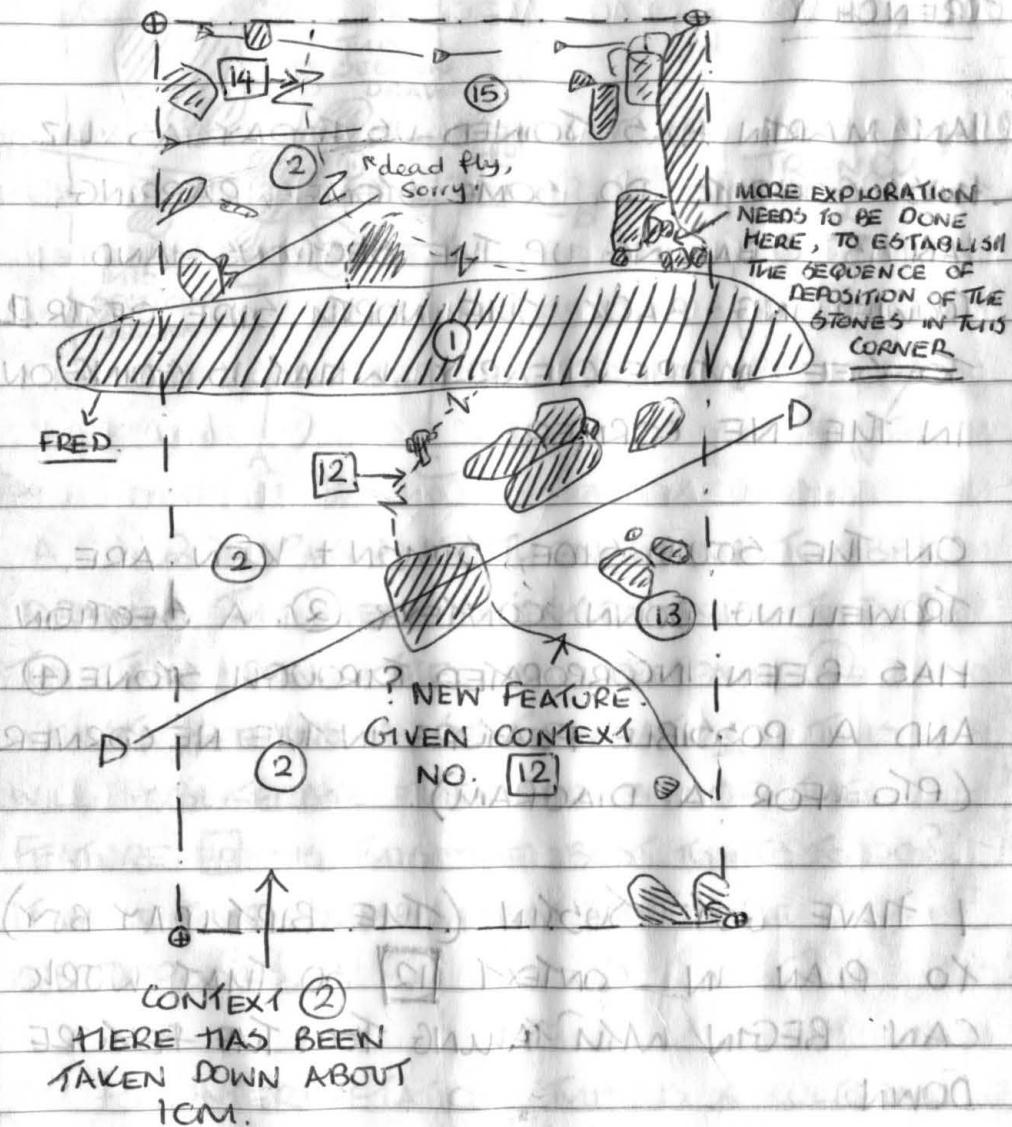
TRENCH

IAN MARTIN HAS JOINED US TODAY AS LIZ
HAS GONE TO DO SOME STONE WRAPPING.
IAN IS CLEANING UP THE SECTIONS AND
TROWELLING BACK THE NORTH SIDE OF TR. I
TO SEE MORE CLEARLY WHAT IS GOING ON
IN THE NE CORNER.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE, SIMON + KEN ARE
TROWELLING DOWN CONCRETE (2). A SECTION
HAS BEEN INCORPORATED THROUGH STONE (4)
AND A POSSIBLE FEATURE IN THE NE CORNER
(PRO FOR A DIAGRAM).

I HAVE GOT SUSTAIN (THE BIRTHDAY BOY)
TO PLAN IN CONTEXT SO THAT WORK
CAN BEGIN WITH TAKING ~~OFF~~ THE FEATURE
DOWN.

(16)



(17)

CLEANING BACK ~~THE~~ CONTEXT ② ON THE NORTH SIDE OF TRENCH 1 HAS REVEALED A DARK CIRCULAR FEATURE BY STONE ① (SEE DIAGRAM 4). MORE WILL BE REVEALED ONCE THE LAYER HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY CLEANED (BY TAKING UP TO 1/2 CM OFF).

It is very instructive to be in a different part of the excavation site. The 'fred' Trench is more impressive once one spends some time on it. I am cleaning sections - according to Sue I am good at it, but I am not sure that would hold water in a court of law. The valley is much windier than the hill itself, but feels more like a family because there are fewer of us to talk & we are almost always within easy earshot. It is interesting to see very different soils which at 1st appear the same.

THE TURF STACK IS NOW A FAMOUS LANDMARK ON BOOMIN MOOR AND COACHLOADS OF TOURISTS ARE EXPECTED IN THE COMING WEEKS. EVEN JEREMY HAS PHOTOGRAPHED IT.

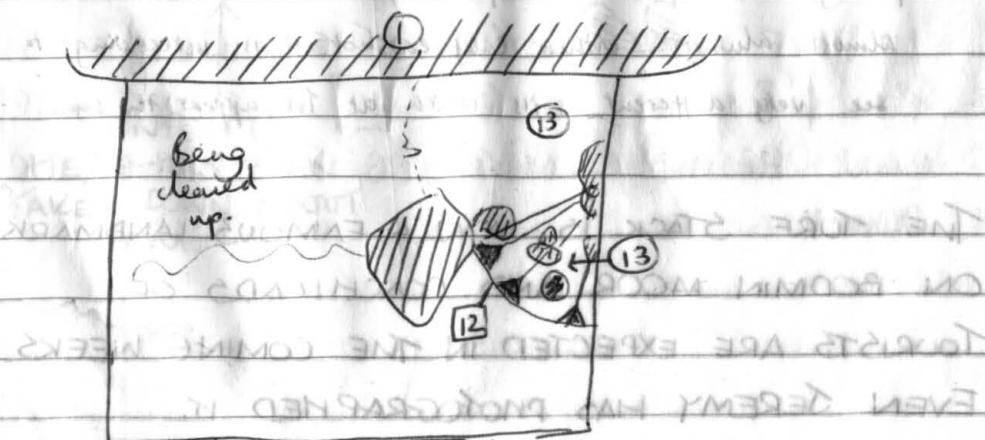
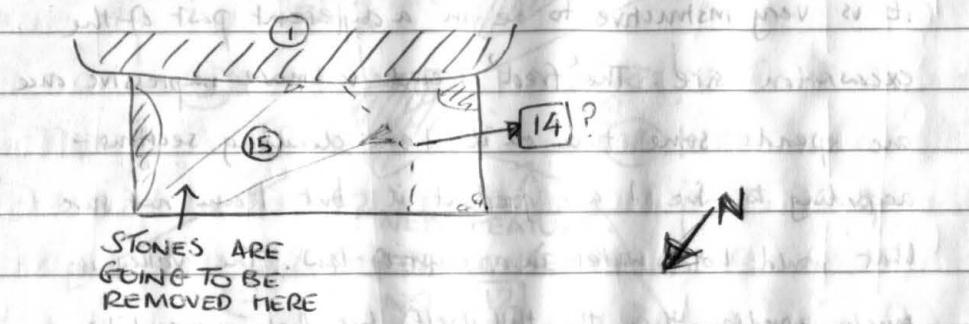
(18)

MONDAY, 1ST JUNE, 1998

SIMON HAS MADE A RECENT CALL TO TELL ME HE IS ON HIS WAY.

MARK HAS JOINED US TODAY AND IS CLEANING UP IN THE N. SIDE OF TR. 1, WHERE THE HOLLOW APPEARS TO BE A WIDER FEATURE. I AM GOING TO GIVE IT A CUP NO. AND A FILL NO (THE PEATY / BROWN DEPOSIT

[14] and [15].

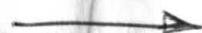


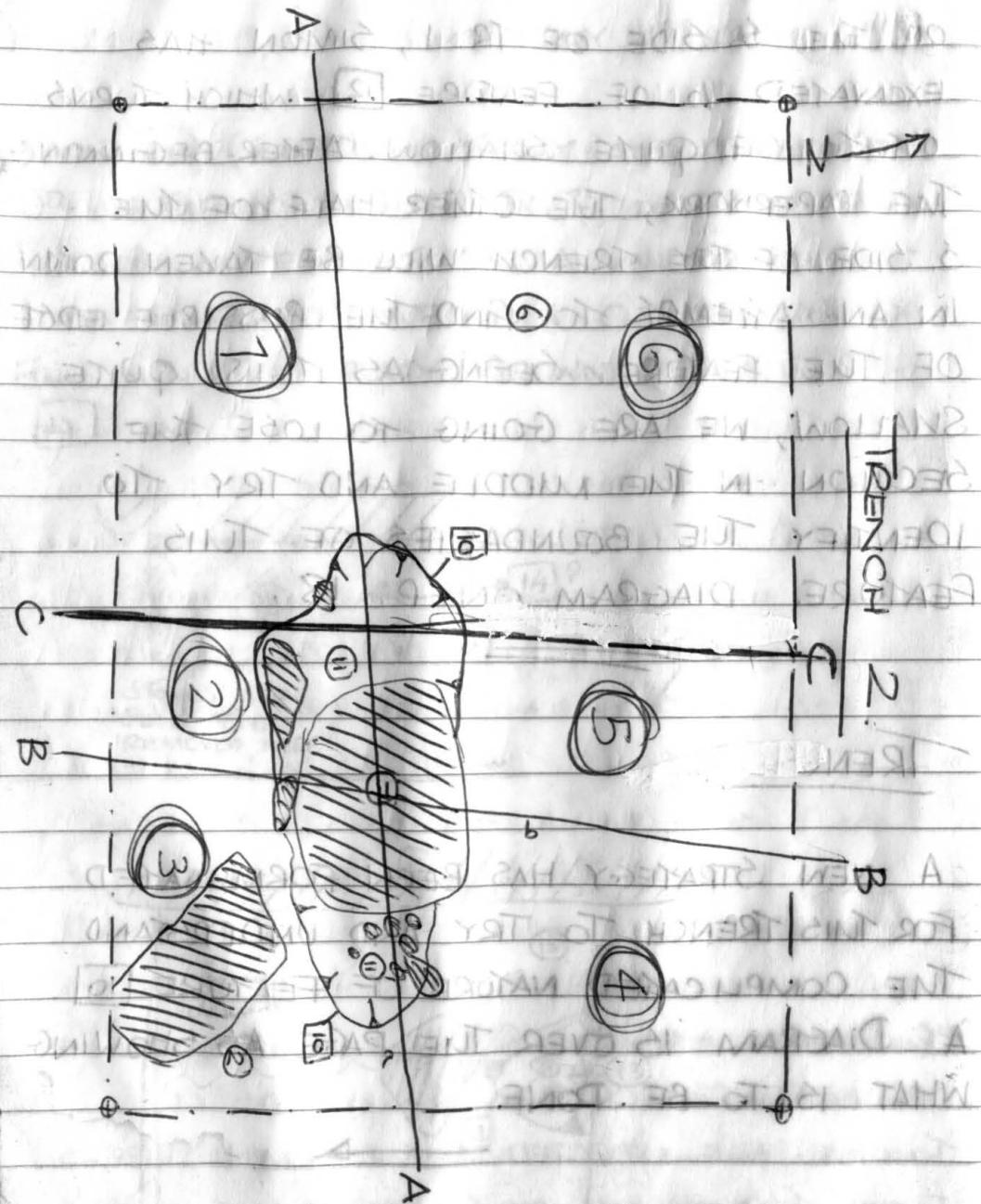
(19)

ON THE S. SIDE OF TR. 1, SIMON HAS EXCAVATED 1/2 OF FEATURE [12], WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE QUITE SHALLOW. AFTER BEGINNING THE PAPERWORK, THE OTHER HALF OF THE S. SIDE OF THE TRENCH WILL BE TAKEN DOWN IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND THE POSSIBLE EDGE OF THE FEATURE. SEEING AS IT IS QUITE SHALLOW, WE ARE GOING TO LOSE THE SECTION IN THE MIDDLE AND TRY TO IDENTIFY THE BOUNDARIES OF THIS FEATURE. DIAGRAM ON P. 18.

TRENCH 2

A NEW STRATEGY HAS BEEN FORMULATED FOR THIS TRENCH TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND THE COMPLICATED NATURE OF FEATURE [10]. A DIAGRAM IS OVER THE PAGE → SHOWING WHAT IS TO BE DONE.





SECTIONS A + B ~~■■■~~ HAVE BEEN RECONSTRUCTED BY JUSTIN ($a + b \rightarrow a = S\text{-FACING}, b = E\text{-FACING}$) AND ARE BEING KEPT IN ANOTHER SECTION (C) IS BEING CREATED. THE PLAN IS TO REMOVE, FIRSTLY, CONTEXT (II) - THE FILL OF [10] TO IDENTIFY WHAT DEPTH / NATURE OF THE FILL IS. SECONDLY, REMOVE THE LAND SURFACE (6) TO CATCH THIS FEATURE IN SECTION. THE TRENCH WILL BE EXCAVATED IN 'BLOCKS' \rightarrow (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6). BY 'BLOCK' (3) WE WILL HAVE A ~~S~~ S-FACING SECTION ACROSS ~~EAT~~ FEATURE [10] (a). THIS IS LIKELY TO BE ADDED TO THE ~~■■■~~ SECTION WE ALREADY HAVE. KEN IS FILLING IN THE CONTEXT SHEETS AND IS EXCAVATING (II) TO SEE THE EXTENT OF THE FEATURE. THEN I WILL EMPLOY THE EAGER HANDS OF 'MATTOCK MARK' TO START TAKING DOWN CONTEXT (6).

(22)

2nd June, 1998.

The capitals are getting tiring so I hope this is legible. No work was done today on the stone circle ~~as~~ due to the torrential rain the night before. The TURF 2000^{RT} has finally failed us, but has now been replaced by the TURF 3000 - Super^{RT}



3rd June, 1998.

I'm afraid the Turf 3000 didn't make it through the night and had to be rebuilt. Again, Jeremy is still photographing it - I assume for an 'album' of turf stacks.

No work was done on the stone circle yesterday because of the wet

(23)

weather, so Simon and I were de-turfing a new wall junction on the hill to the west of House 39. I saw a new part of the landscape from this new position - the valley down from Buttermill with the wind-mills twirling in the distance. Looking down on the stone circle is quite dominated by the turf stack and spoil heap, which have become key orienteering positions in the landscape if you are walking in from the Westincragate way.

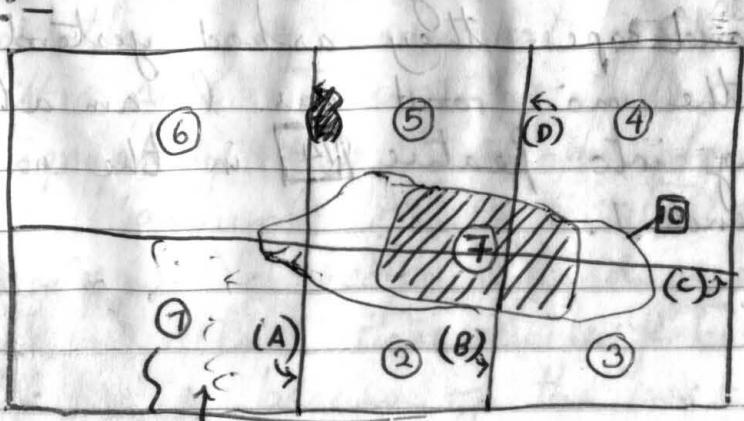
Today, Chris ~~DARHAM~~ and Ian Martin are helping clean up section ① in Trench 2. It seems the army know less about the landscape - they asked yesterday where the main road was. I am also looking into feature ⑭ in the n. side of trench 1.

(24)

4th June, 1998

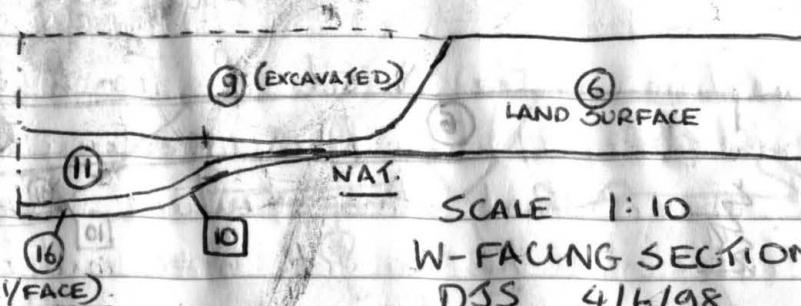
The weather is stunning, so morale is probably at an all time high. Particularly as the turf stack, although brutally attacked by cows, has escaped relatively unscathed (not so in House 39). Chapp and Chris are working here today, mainly on Trench 2. The first 'segment' has been removed - there is quite a lot of iron pan on top of the rab (natural). A sketch of the W-facing section revealed from the excavation of this ~~section~~ segment (and other sections) are on the next few pages →

PLAN:-

focus of area
of iron pan.

(25)

A.



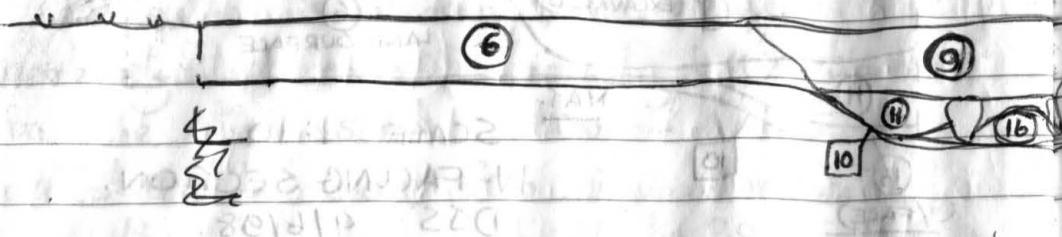
SCALE 1:10
W-FACING SECTION.
DSS 416198.

B + D. (Still to be exposed).

(c)

Sue - I am transferring this
date from my green
notebook.

26



TURF

⑤ Peaty layer beneath
turf.

⑨

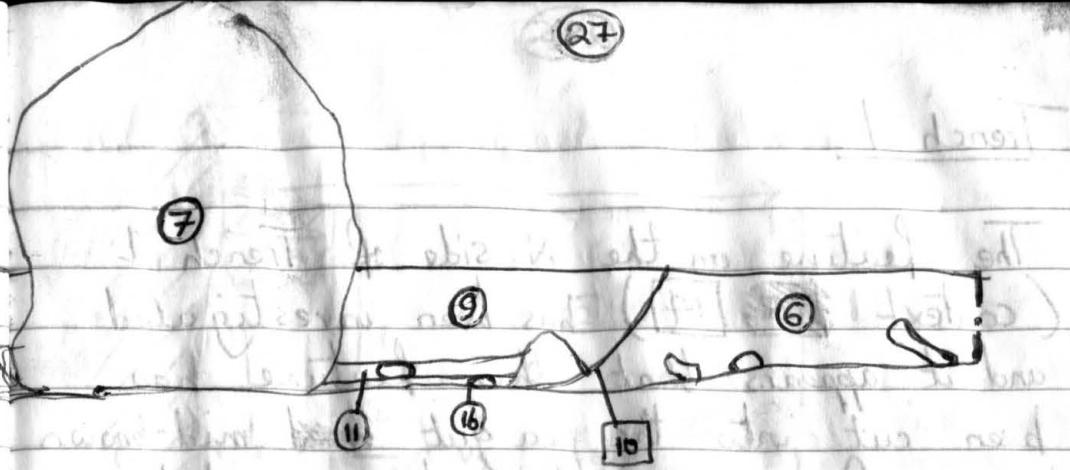
11

16

10

6
7?

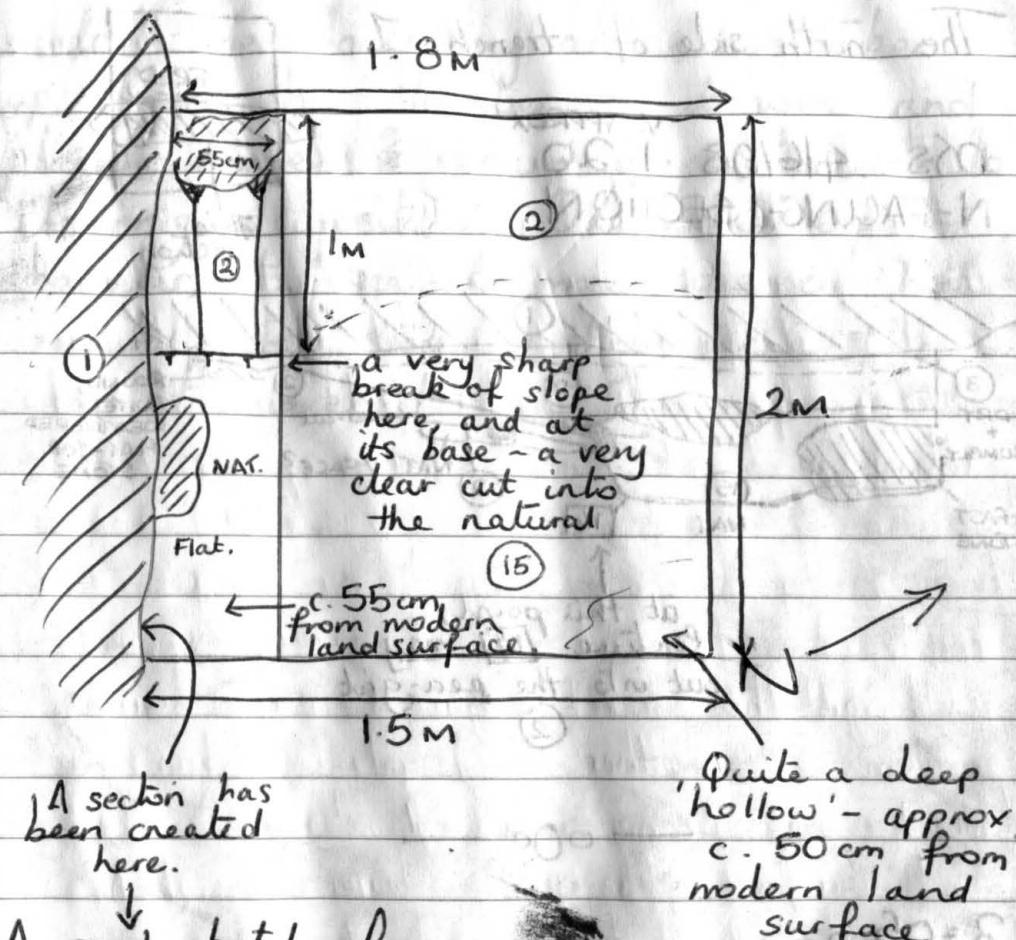
27



Trench 1.

The feature on the N. side of Trench 1 (context ~~14~~ [14]) has been investigated and it appears that this feature has been cut into the pea grit ~~had~~ mid-brown land surface layer. A section was taken at the side of this side of the trench to investigate the edges of this feature (where the actual cut lies). The rest of the fill (15) will then be removed and the feature will be planned. A rough sketch is ~~on~~ on page 29 —

As for the southern side of this trench, the very morphous feature [12] is very undulated and unclear. It may well be a continuation of the feature ([14]) on the other side (?). It's a distinct possibility.

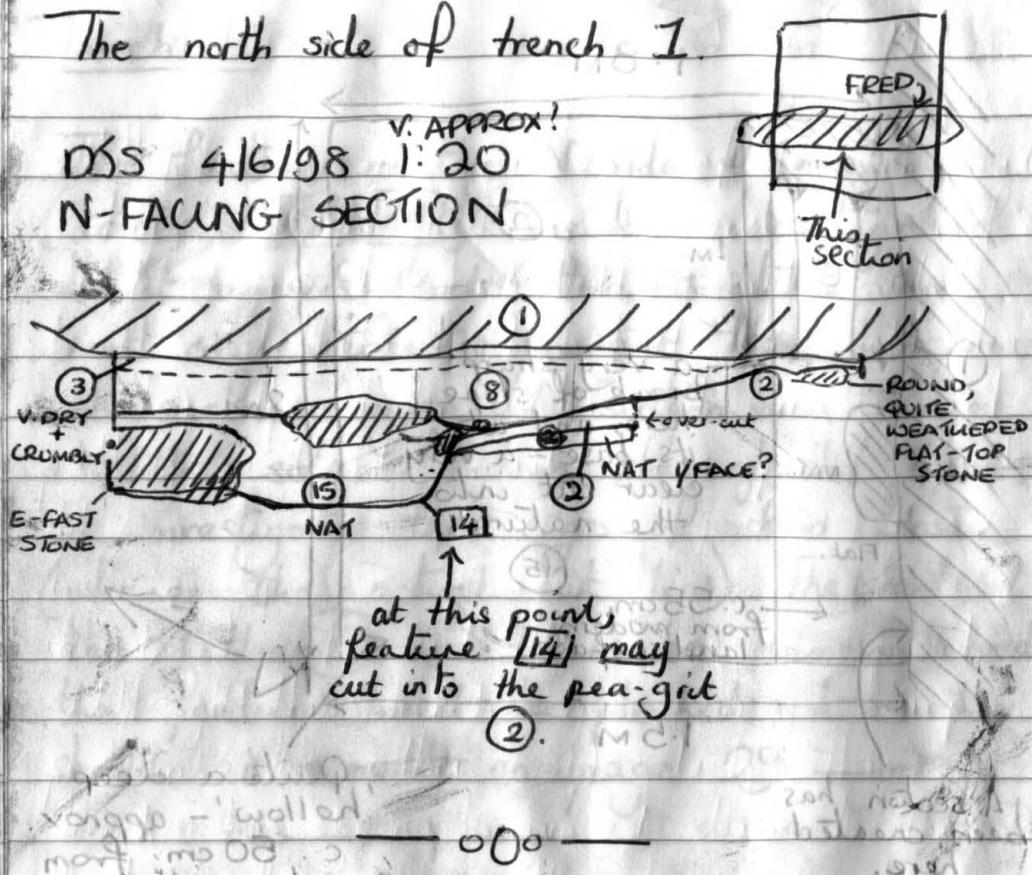


A rough sketch of
which is over the page (30)

(30)

The north side of trench 1.

DSS 4/6/98 1:20
v. APPROX!
N-FACING SECTION



(31)

where Fred once lay and was taken up from his slumber, as-it-were and placed above the ground perpendicular to its original position. One would expect, however, to see a more uneven hole around the stone if this were the case to lever it out?

Mike has just been over looking for brushes and has made the hypothesis that Fred was pulled out of the 'cut' [14] and hoisted round the other way for some purpose. In other words the 'cut' [14] belongs to

(32)

7th June, 1998

Site tour this morning. Lots of bailing out today, although the sun is out. The turf stack seems to be holding out quite well. Cliff and Chris had the best idea, making the stack wider and smaller, and putting ~~a~~ tight small fence-posts around it.

Trench 1 - the cut [14] is nearly exposed, although this trench has a major sump problem. The other (S.) side of this trench has been excavated down to the land surface pea-gritty layer ② which, cut into it (not through it) is cut [12] which is reasonably morphous, although could be the same ~~as~~ as the cut [14] on the other side of the trench.

(33)

Trench 2 - the third 'quadrant' is now being removed by Ash (joining us today) and Chris. Yesterday, Justin drew in the rest of the sections and will do so again once this third quadrant has been removed. (Refer back to plan on page 24)

The section lines on Justin's plan does not equate to creating a section across feature [10], which could be a problem. As long as it is a straight line, I think we can (or Justin can) accommodate this 'new' section.

7/6/98

Frosting clean to natural in TR 2 corner [6] feature [10] noted several flints of charcoal in a ~~grey~~ for discrete? feature - dark, greyish silt - this seems to lie directly on the natural and may represent a separate cut feature to be investigated tomorrow - at least one more find off hand - no contextual sample taken.

(34)

8th June, 1998

Ah!! What a miserable day - definitely the worst! Sue, bless her, gave us the 1/2 day off which is quite a blessing ~~because~~ because it gives a chance to catch up on the paperwork.

Section 3 (see plan on page 20) has now been fully excavated but we left site before Justin could sector it. Justin may well have to adjust the sectors now due to the cock-up about where the original sections were. But I don't think it will affect the knowledge of the sequence of deposits.

This rain is predicted to go on all night.

(35)

9th June, 1998.

P.T.O.

(This page was too wet to write on).

Water ~~had~~ had drained into the trenches up to the turf line, so the morning has been spent bailing out and cleaning up the section for Justin (the S-facing section):



As for Trench 1, Su has obviously been speaking to Mike, as her new hypothesis is that the cut [14] is ~~where~~ the original position of Fred, stone ①, and that the larger stones around it were used to ~~fill~~ cover it out.

Trench 1 needs to be planned, photographed, and on the south side, the pea-grit land surface ② needs to be taken down which will hopefully produce the other side of cut [14].

Chris will attempt to clean up the south side of Trench 1 \rightarrow

Jeremy has not brought his cameras today, so we will be able to get away with a mop-up clean for Justin to plan it.

10th June:

We are made from the dust of stars
and when the sun strikes its quartz
the granite remembers.

13th June, 1998

Work is commencing on both trenches & despite the wet weather which has led to both trenches being extremely waterlogged. Liz and Chris are still working here today, and the whole morning was spent bailing out - ~~water~~ ~~and peat~~ Trench 1 - the south side of this trench is now being excavated down to the natural. Trench 2, segment (4) is now being excavated also, although water is draining back in very quickly making it a slow and cumbersome process. ~~work~~ I

Liz and I are still singing - we have found Fred the perfect anthem - in fact (performed by the brilliant Simon and Garfunkel) - Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

Hooray for happy feet!

Excavating down to the natural on the South side of Trench 1 exposed a mixture of weathered stones and possibly more natural stones which may suggest that the cut into the natural (which I will give a new number (17)) produced the unearthing of in situ 'natural' stones that then fell back in / were thrown back in. One of the stones sticking out of the W-facing section of this trench also has one completely weathered side and one v. dark smooth side with markings or fissures on it / Sue says it could well be a natural phenomenon. Cut (17) seems to dive down quite clearly about 30-50 cm to west from the west ~~one reg~~ section. There is a v. dark peaty fill just below the peat (2) with some mix of redeposited natural seen in the vicinity of cut (17). Work has been done very well by Chris + Liz in such wet conditions. (4)

(42)

June!

14th July, 1998.

Andrew Mayfield has joined the group today, and the Devon Archaeological Society are visiting. It was quite unnerving, they all emerged over the Beacon like a tribe of Gauls.

Anyway, archaeology. Trench 1 - Andrew and Liz are chasing back the natural rab on the south side of this trench. There is still a small bit to mattock off in the corner, but I will be a bit more careful here as the 'hollow' of cut [17] seems deeper here and there is an increased number of stones. I hope to get this finished today. Due to quite good weather today, the trenches are staying relatively dry, and I may take the opportunity to remove the land surface (2) - (mid-dark brown pea-grit deposit) from the north side of this trench. Nothing more can be said here until it has been fully excavated and cleaned up.

(43)

Trench 2 - Chris is continuing to excavate and clean up the fourth 'segment' of this trench (refer back to p. 24). In the area of cut [10], it is becoming more indistinct, particularly at the very bottom of the cut where a dark ^(black) greasy peaty clay patch is persisting - in some places it appears to run under the natural, which made me think it may be some sort of animal hole. Sue is still clinging to the idea that there may be a stone hole here (?) - more investigation is needed. We may dispense with the control feature and, after segment (4) has been removed, segment (5) + (6) will be taken off together.

Another interesting 'feature' which has been exposed on excavating segment (4) of this trench is a conglomeration of stones in the eastern section and beyond (see diagram P10→). Chris has removed a few of these stones as ~~they have gone~~

he has gone down to the natural and noticed that they are reasonably tightly packed together which may suggest they are a dumping of stones (& possibly from cut [10]?)



In this area, the natural seems bright orange, almost sandy and gritty, very similar to the material when granite crumbles and breaks down - is it like this because of the amount of stones in this area? Chris has also noted that it sounds

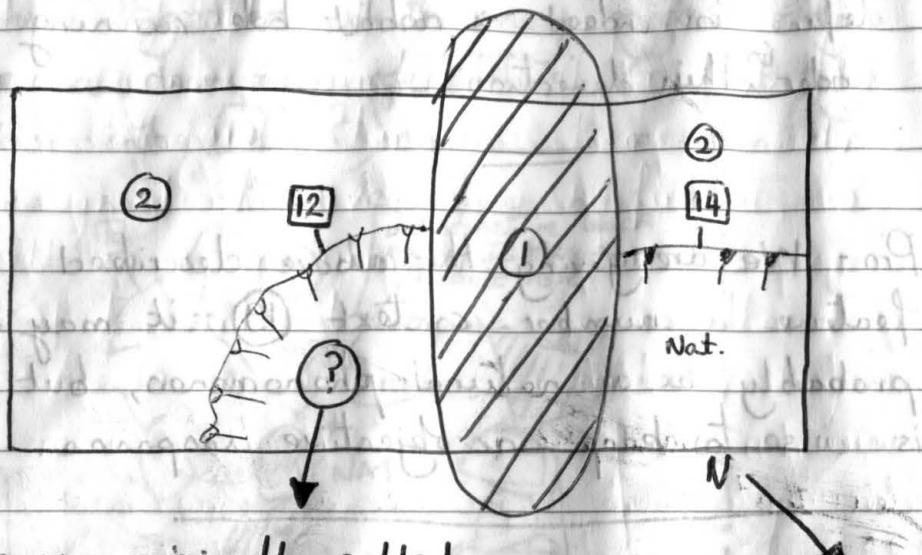
quite hollow underneath which makes me suspect that the black area we cannot define is indeed a rabbit hole running under this direction.

Pm - We are giving the above described feature a number- context (19) - it may well probably be a natural phenomenon, but it is wise to keep an objective response.

15th June, 1998.

Liz and Chris are back working here today - there was absolutely no bailing out to do as it is a glorious day, only a little wind, making it bizarrely chilly. Sue has had a look at the trench diary and trench folder and thankfully it wasn't too bad. We have had a discussion about the south side of Trench 1, and have surmised that there is likely to have been another

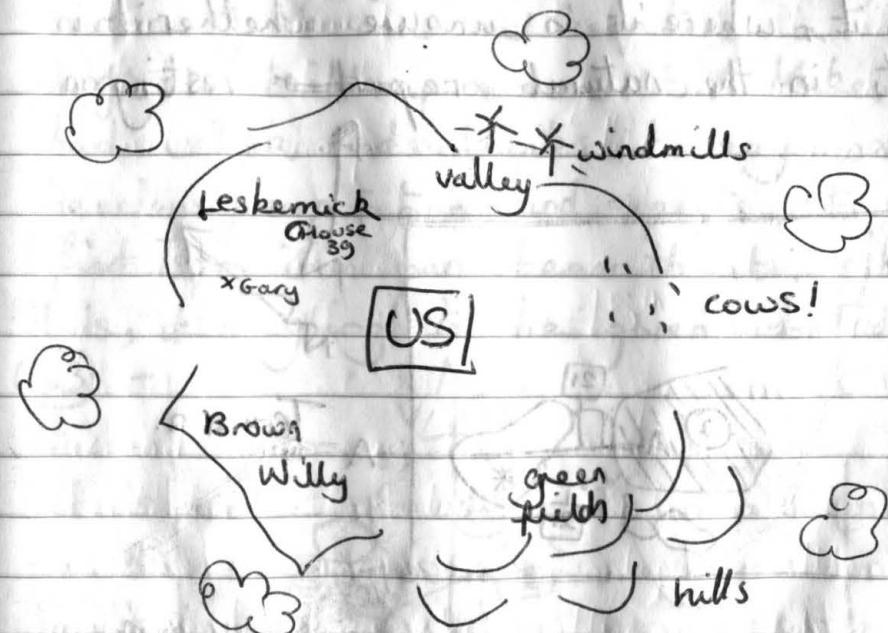
lens/fill of cut [17] -



This was originally called context ②, but this does not tie in with what was located on the other side of the trench, where the feature had been cut into the peat-girt land surface ②. So I am going to give this context, which was beneath ⑬ context number ⑯ and hopefully we will be able to see a little more clearly what is happening in the W-facing section.

- 2
- 20
- 120
- 18
- 17

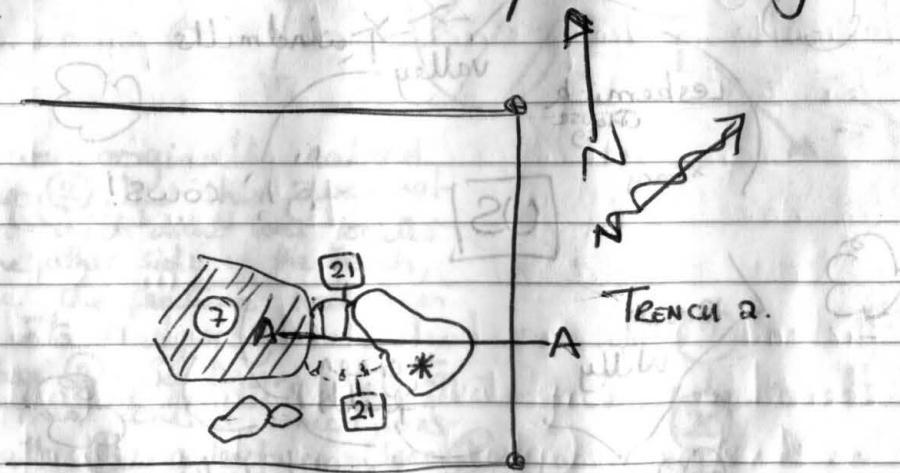
Liz has just had a 'mirage'. In the valley where the windmills are she thought ~~she~~ she saw the sea, but Chris has informed us that ~~that~~ it is Hartnell Point. I have also decided to take a 360° photo-shoot of what we can see here in the Northern stone circle :-)



I hope it comes out. ~~Time~~

(49)

Trench 2 - several curious things have cropped up - the 'black blob' seen to the E of cut [10] & is going to be given context number [21], and its fill [22]. We are taking a section (E-W) through it to investigate it further, as well as a medium-sized stone to the N E of it, where it is unsure whether it is in situ in the natural or ~~post~~ resting on it.

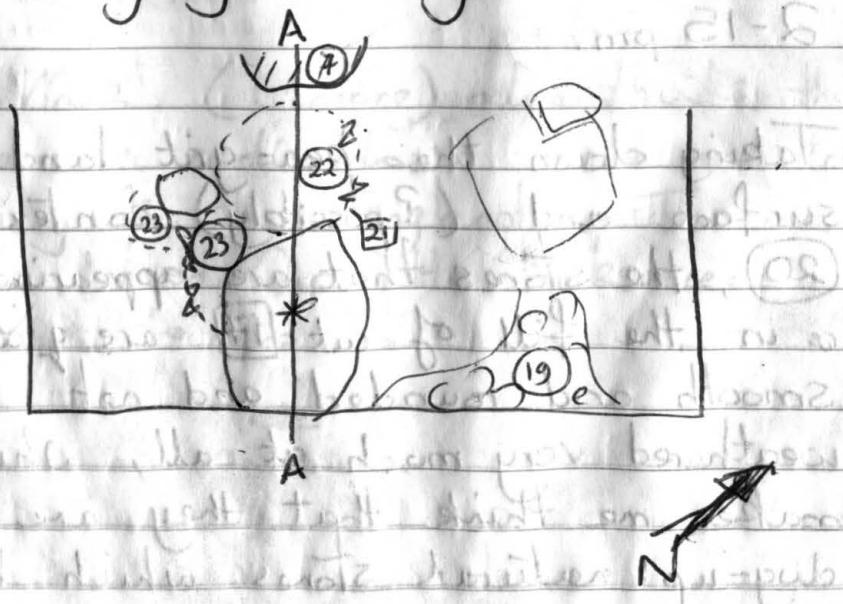


Chris has just said that he thinks the stone (*) is actually lying on the surface.

(50)

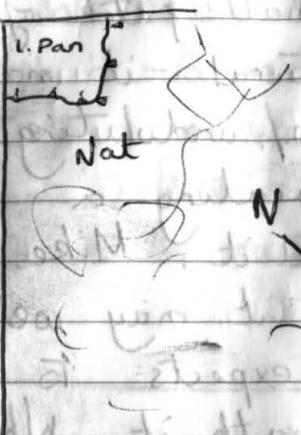
Finally, to the south of the stone, (curiously in around the same area which was taken as a sample [7] which contained some flecks and a couple of chunks of charcoal,) there is a small patch of more greasy stickier natural - it may well be the result of a hollow/ undulating surface of the natural creating a different build-up around it. Mike has had a look and thinks it may well be clay precipitation and expects to find some iron pan beneath it. Whatever it is, it is going to be given context no.

(23) :-



(51)

Trench 1 - Liz has noticed that the natural rob runs underneath the squishy blob of orange iron pan in the corner:-



It has been decided to keep the iron pan in for now.

2-15 pm.

Taking down the pea-grit land surface and (?possibly) context (20), the stones that are appearing in the fill of cut [17] are quite smooth and rounded and not weathered very much at all, which makes me think that they are dug-up natural stones which have

(52)

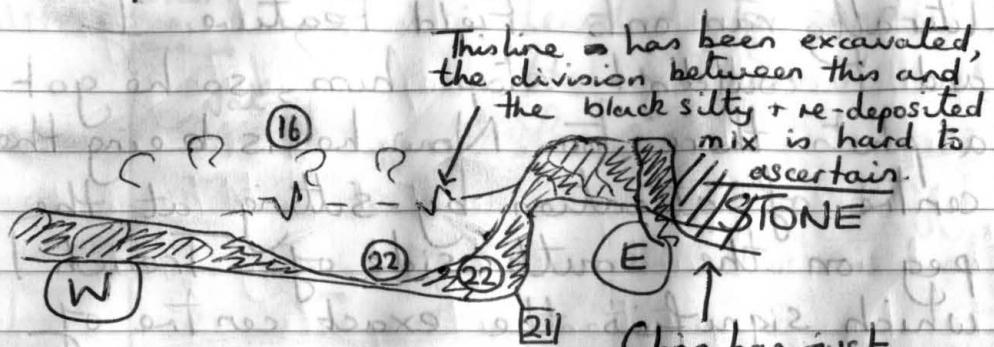
been re-deposited ^{back} in the 'hole' [17].

Piglet has been out and is experiencing anthropobogy by posing in front of three white wrapped stones - then he literally ran onto Field Feature 1 and I couldn't stop him, so he got a photo there too. Now he is being the centre of attention by sitting at the peg on the south side of Trench 1 which signifies the exact centre of the circle.

P.S. Mark (L'more) also thinks that we have a radio down here and are listening to the England v. Tunisia in the World Cup. He looks very morose. Ho ho ho....

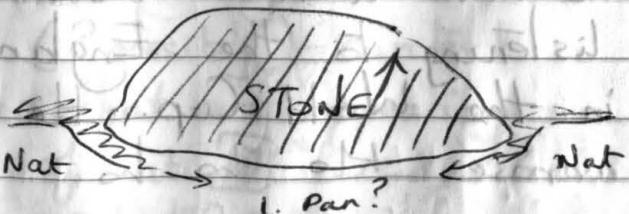
53

2-40 pm ^{stood}
After much hawelling which looks like brain surgery, Chris & I is beginning to define the profile of cut [21].



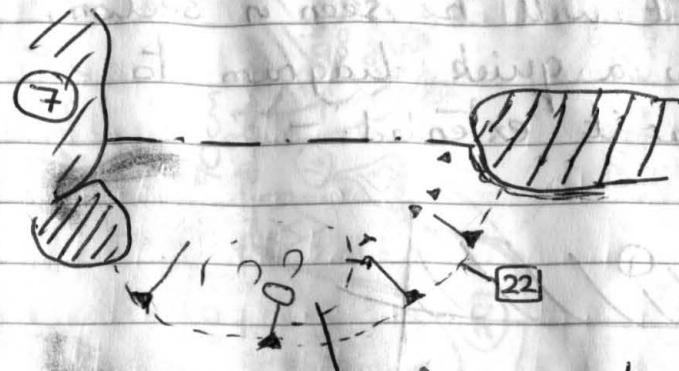
□ = re-deposited natural

■ = black / brown / clayey silt



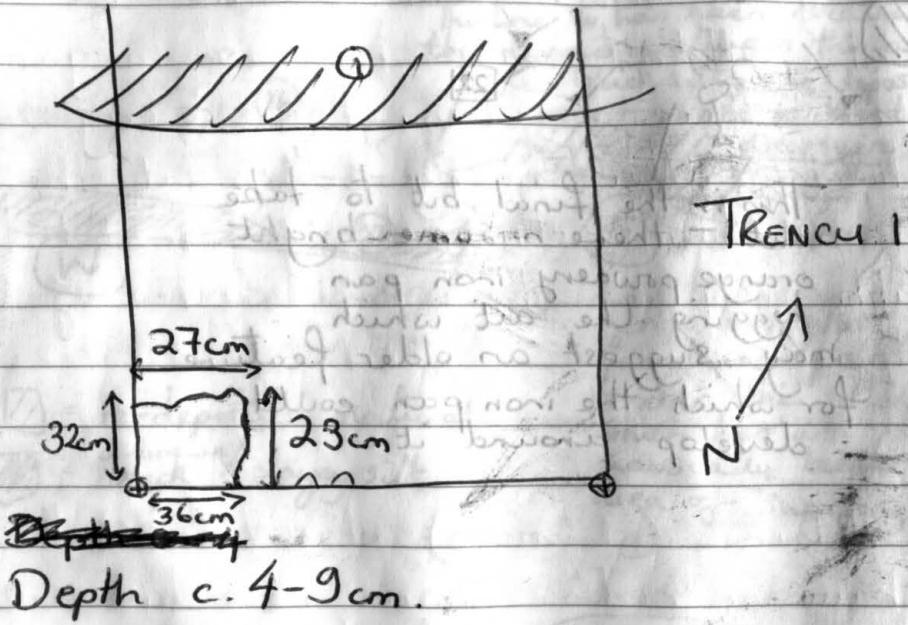
54

Plan view.



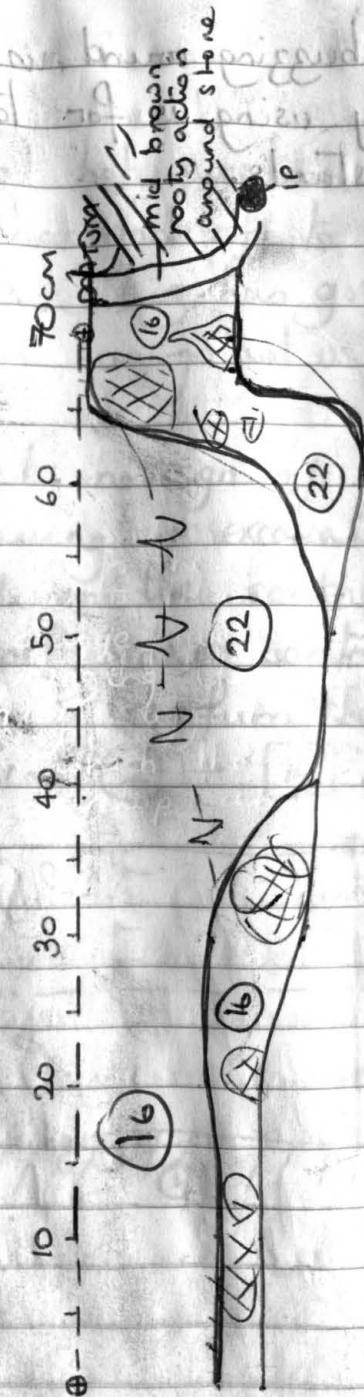
This is the final bit to take out - there is some bright orange powdery iron pan digging the cut which may suggest an older feature for which the iron pan could develop around it.

The iron pan in the SW corner of the south side of Trench I is going to be removed as it will be seen in section, so I'll draw a quick diagram to show how far it extended -



3-20 - Liz has now gone to take some environmental samples.

A measured sketch of cut [2] which will be transferred to [2].



Lock deposited
natural.

(57)

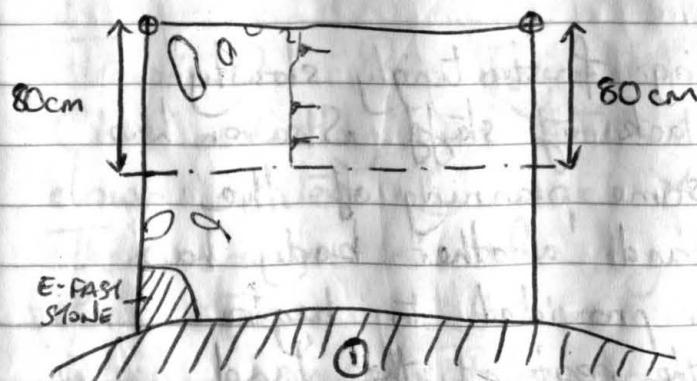
The helicopters are buzzing round us like dung flies, probably using us for target practices. Noisy bastards.

(58)

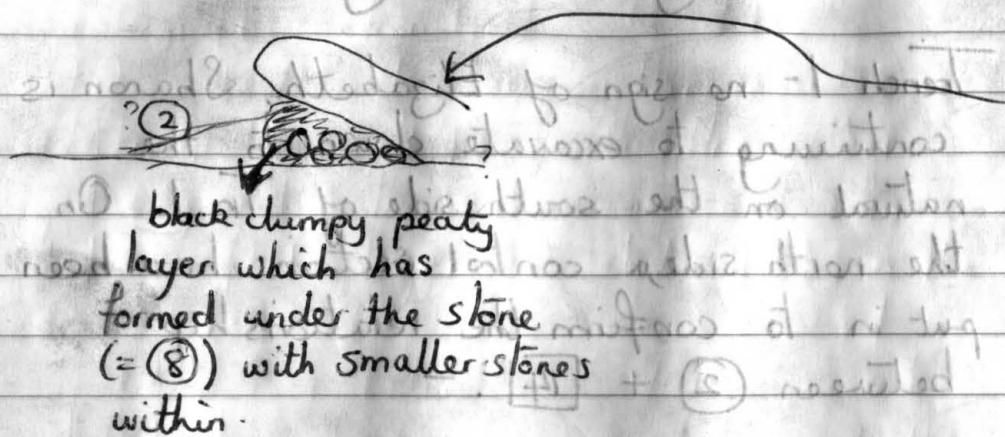
16th June, 1998 //

Brilliant hot sunshine, hardly any wind. Chris has gone off to his interview with Patrick, Liz has got bad hay-fever + Sharon has joined us today.

Trench 1 - no sign of Elizabeth. Sharon is continuing to excavate down to the natural on the south side of Tr. 1. On the north side, a control section has been put in to confirm the relationship between (2) + [14] :-



8 There is a stone in the N. sector in which appears to be natural, and there are a number of smaller (c. 10 cm) stones which have formed underneath it.



Work is moving frustratingly slowly because of lack of staff. Sharon has gone to do some planning of the wall section and another body has not yet been provided to begin taking down the rest of the land surface (6) in Trench 2. Liz has returned.

9 I have now removed a stone from the land surface (2) near the top (W) of the trench and noticed that some iron pan had developed underneath it. There is also a fair amount of bright orange iron pan about halfway down the cut. Could [14] be older than we thought?

2-40 pm. This stone which I thought was earth-fast isn't earth-fast. The natural is absolutely covered in iron pan.

Trench 2 - Ben Reynolds has joined Chris and they are starting to take down context (6) which remains. There are a lot of large flat earth-fast stones in this part of the trench which is making it a bit awkward.

61

3-15 pm. Liz has found an edge.

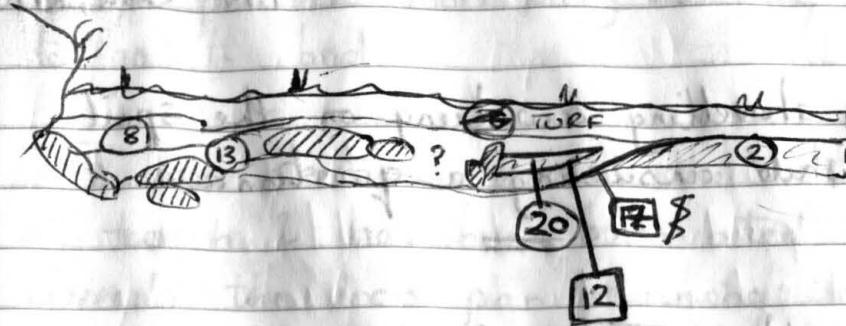
HURRAH!

(14 = 17)

3.52. The trenches are getting quite exciting now. It is much more clear and enjoyable now there are cuts to define and layers to distinguish in the section.

Trench 1 - The w-facing section of the south side is beginning to look much clearer and it does look as though the pea-grit land surface ~~2~~ (2) has been cut into and what we were getting down to at the bottom of cut 12 (ie, under fill (13)) is a very similar looking lens. The picture so far looks thus:-

62



As for the north side, we are now taking a box section down to determine whether the cut 14 actually cuts the iron pan. Tune for the mattock.

(63)

17th June, 1998

Sue is shovelling cow dung on the spoil heap while answering a questionnaire.

Photographs - Trench 1, N. side.

1) Kodachrome 64 film No: 49.
35mm lens, nos. 21, 22, 23

(E-facing section cut [14])

Facing W. The same - B&W.

FP4 film No. 48, nos.

16. (35mm lens).

2) Overview [14] facing E/S?

cl. 49 - 24-26.

bw. 48 - 17.

(64)

10-45 pm. A short entry as Fay wants to go to bed.

The box section through the north side of trench 1 has been excavated and reveals the iron pan running under the cut - Mike said bollocks when he came to have a look. Why? Had I completely ruined everything? More likely we now are unsure about it being a modern cut - (diagram over the page). It all depends on how long the iron pan takes to develop (ie, 300? 1000? 4000 years ???!!).

Piglet was with Gary today and has filled in a questionnaire for Tony Williams.

(63)

17th June, 1998

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Facing W. The same - B&W.

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(65)

18th June, 1998

Today I am in a foul mood because of a certain moron amongst us. If this was a paid job, I would have walked out, and if it wasn't for Sue I would have left immediately anyway. ~~It's not~~ I'm secure in the knowledge that it's nothing personal however, ~~everyone~~ practically everyone ~~dislikes~~ this person! I understand this is not the kind of thing one should put in a trench diary, but I was under the impression that my feelings reflected how I perceived my trench. It is annoying me.

Sharon is planning trench 2 whilst Chris is finishing the excavation of cut [10]. Elizabeth is nearing the final stages of cut [17]. There are a lot of stones in the section

(66)

which is making life difficult and there ~~is~~ a lot of redeposited natural in this area also. On the N. side of trench 1, I am now removing the land surface (2), so this ^(cut 14) will soon be down to the natural.

I have also been told that this trench must be finished by at the very latest Monday so it can be back-filled on Tuesday (will it take one day?) It will take everyone three days to back-fill the house.

10-35 - Liz has just removed a stone at the v. corner of this cut which looks to be a redeposited natural stone.

(Ed. 9)

(67)

19th June, 1998.

We have three days to finish the stone circle and, weather permitting, it looks like it is going to work out nicely.

Trench 11 - The box section is now complete and the section (SE-facing) has been excavated by Chris down a little bit further to expose the iron pan, which quite clearly follows the cut. Context ② (the peat-grit land surface) can be seen in section to seal a part of the cut, but it can't be seen all the way over. A sketch is on page 68.

How old is the iron pan? Sue says that, (talking to a local contact) (REMOVED?) iron pan can be seen to develop in the Elizabethan period - a lot more needs to be understood about the development of the geology of the area before a firm date can be put to this feature. What (p. 69→)

(68)

11

TRENCH 12

OF SIDE

2

CUT

SECTION

SE-FACING

5

4

3

2

1

TOP

SECTION

SE-FACING

5

4

3

(69)

can be done is an environmental sample of the primary fill, to try and discover the nature of the landscape when the cut was ~~was~~ created. As far as excavation goes, there are several stages left.

N-side - clean up the trench for a photograph facing ~~the~~ S E, and possibly another shot of the ~~the~~ SE-facing section all the way down to the iron pan. Then, a final plan.

S. side - this (cut 7 (=14)) has now been photographed and has to be planned, and the NE-facing section drawn.

[Trench 2] - has now been fully excavated and planned. The box section needs to be taken out and a section drawn - which one will depend on what ~~is~~ is revealed. →

(70)

20th June, 1998.

Joined by Hannah today - she + Chris are now clearing up Trench 2 for a photograph. Fay has also joined us + is cleaning up the SW-facing section on the S. side of Trench 1. The geomorphologists have been round, but I did not understand a word they said.

PM - Trench 2 has now been cleaned and is being photographed on M ST's cameras, facing both E + W. There is a large stone in the mid-N edge of the trench which is (acc-to g/morphologists) against the fluv and may be resting on the natural.

Justin is planning the S. side of Tr. 1 and will draw the section (SW-facing) after it has been photographed close-up.

2 stones will be removed that are ~~not~~ not natural and the photographs will be taken with them removed.

Things to do

- 1) Clean up SW-facing section of S. side of Tr. 1 for a close-up photograph.
- 2) Take levels on plan H1.
- 3) Draw D¹.
- 4) Take not-natural stones out of Tr. 2.
- 5) Re-photograph Tr. 2.
- 6) Set-up box section.
- 7) Excavate box section.
- 8) Finish clearing up box section et al on n. side of Tr. 1.
- 9) Photograph section + Trench 1, n. side.

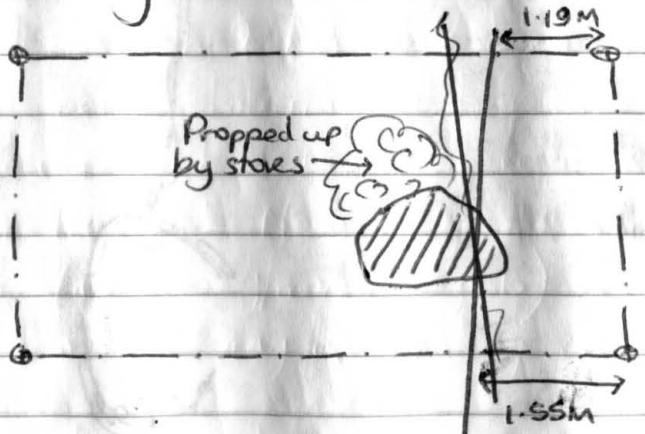
(71)

(72)

- 10) Draw / photograph a section relating to the box section in Trench 2.

21st June, 1998

Another hot day. Chris + Hannah are attacking out the box section in Tr. 2:-



Fay is clearing up the north side of Tr. 1 for a photograph, Sharon is marking on the plans which stones are earth-fast and which are not.

73

Justin has now finished the SW-facing section of cuts [12] + [17] in the N. side of Trench 1. →
 (Drawing No. 52).

APPENDIX

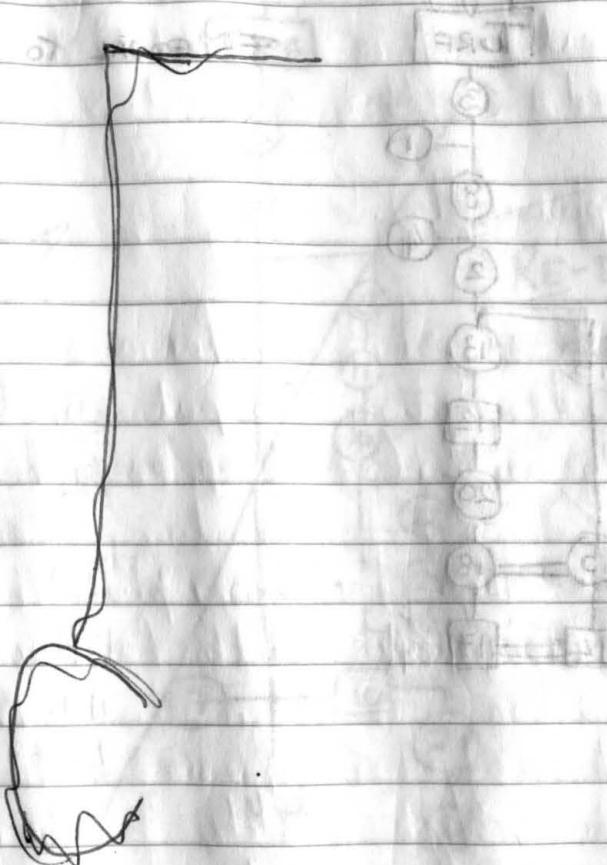
3) Draw a sketch of the cut & its location
 - first in north and at the junction

new sketch
 250210

3) Sketch of the cut & its location
 - first in north and at the junction
 2) Sketch of the cut & its location

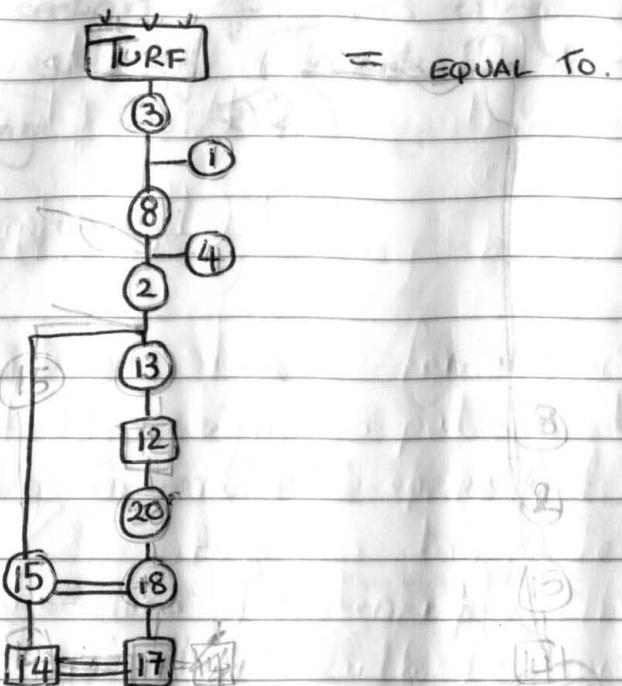
74

Matrix Trench 1.



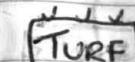
75

Matrix - Trench 1



76

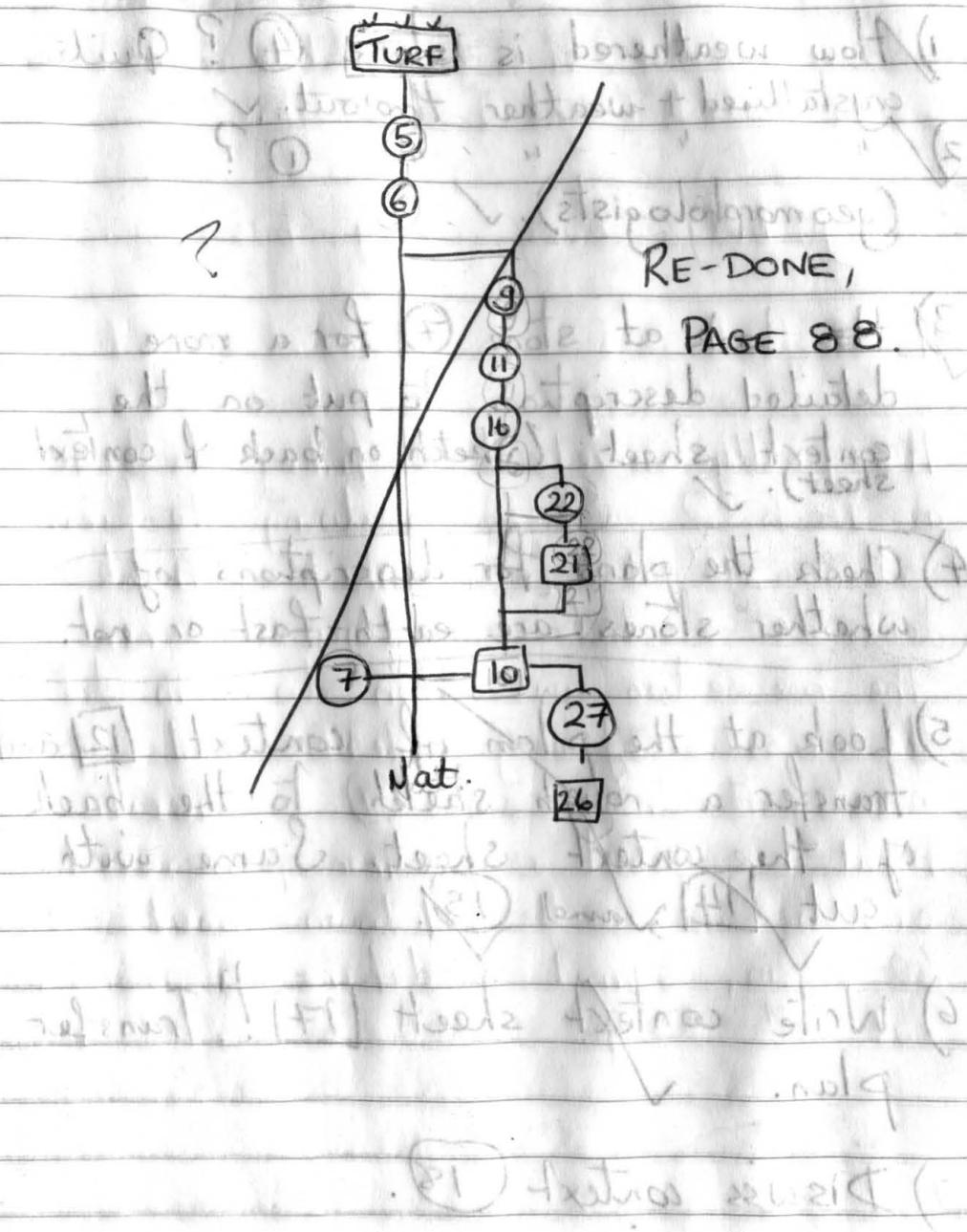
Matrix - Trench 2



5
6
9
11
16
22
21
10
27

RE-DONE,

DATE TO PAGE 88.



(77)

Things to check :-

- 1) How weathered is stone ④? Quite crystallized + weather thru'out. ✓
- 2) " " " " ①? (geomorphologists). ✓
- 3) ~~the~~ Look at stone ⑦ for a more detailed description to put on the context sheet. (Sketch on back of context sheet). ✓
- 4) Check the plans for descriptions of whether stones are earth-fast or not.
- 5) Look at the plan of context ⑫ and transfer a rough sketch to the back of the context sheet. Same with cut ⑭ and ⑮. ✓
- 6) Write context sheet ⑯! Transfer plan. ✓
- 7) Discuss context ⑰. ✓

(78)

8) Write context sheets for ⑬ and ⑭. ✓

22nd July.

12-05 pm.

Still a nice day. Hannah + Chris have now fully excavated the box section.

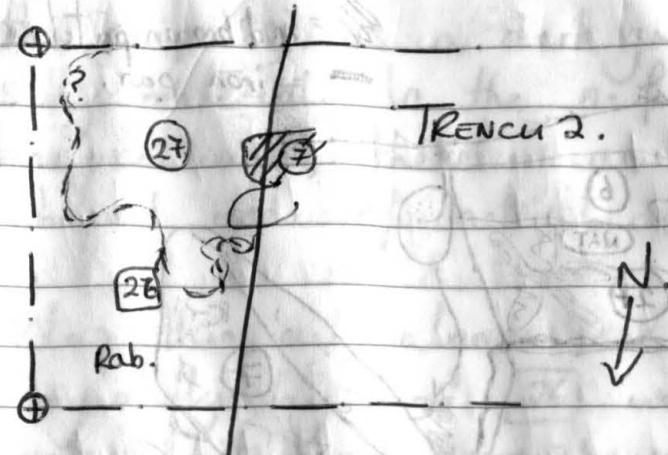
Busy, busy, busy, busy, busy . . .

1.08 pm.

It's finally arrived. Back-filling has begun in Trench 2. Sharon is doing the final sections of 'cut' [26] which I think deserves a bit of discussion here.

The box section was taken down to detect the presence of any stone holes and investigate under stone ⑦ in general.

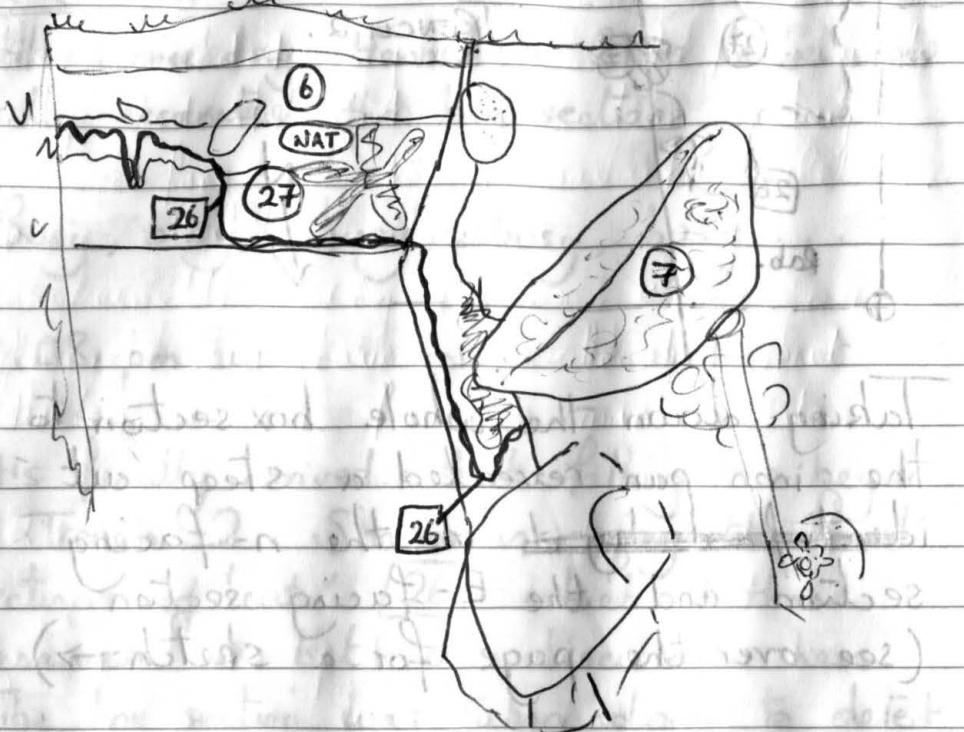
What we found was a iron pan which, once we had mattocked down about 60-70 cm, seemed to define a morphous cut → see p. 80 →



Taking down the whole box section to the iron pan revealed a steep 'cut' identified by ↓ in the n-facing section and the E-facing section (see over the page for a sketch→)

What is this cut? It may be the result of activity (the words 'pseudo-feature' were mentioned) ↓ which has occurred due to the fact that ↓ there ↓ has been a degree of activity based around stone ⑦, beginning with cut [10]. The fill of [26], [27], has a certain amount of animal activity which can be seen ↓

~~U~~ = mid brown patches
- = iron pan.



Oh dear, I've just realised I'm extremely bad at drawing 3D sketches.

~~H~~ (\leftarrow p. 80) as a dark greyey brown silty material. In the n-facing section in particular, there is an almost star-shaped area of activity within it.

- Was this cut also where the stone originally lay and [26] was a cut to get at it and prop it up over the same area? Illogical - ie, it would be easier to take the stone out and prop it up somewhere else rather than ~~H~~ back-fill the hole first.

It is a mystery.

The plan is to put a message on a ~~piece~~ scrap of permatrace and a coin in a sample bottle and put it into the back-fill. Something, perhaps, along the lines of, - sorry, no stone hole here, try somewhere else.

(83)

9-20 pm.

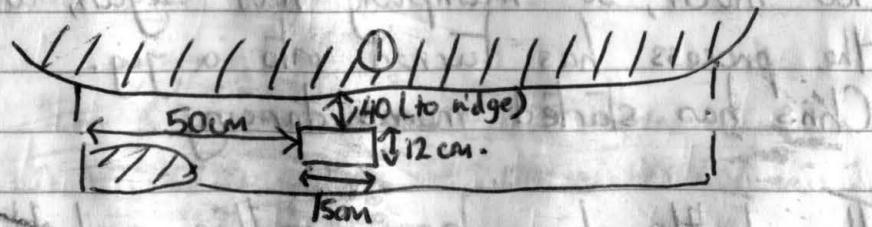
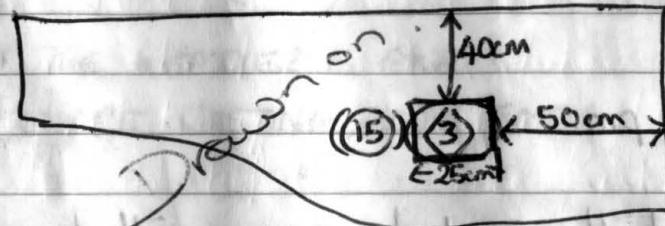
Just reminded myself that I felt ~~guilty~~
compelled to kick my sections today
just before the trench was back-filled.
~~tree~~ Reckless behaviour.

Me and Fay have also decided that
Justin is our favorite man on site.

(84)

23rd July, 98

M Seager-T has taken two RC samples
from the SE + NW-facing sections
of the N side of Trench 1. To save
the drawings from disappearing in
the ~~poor~~ misty rain I'm locating the
positions of them here:-



Morning tea break

The thick mist still hasn't cleared, so me and Chris feel like grave diggers, sumptuously (sp?) disturbing the dead.

Bakewell tarts for an after-backfill party here at the northern stone circle.

12-40 pm

Looking at the spoil heap, we will have too much, so trampling has begun, and the process has turned into a jig. Chris has started mom's dancing.

The bottle has been written and ~~the~~ placed beneath Bert the standing stone, along with a 1990 spence piece.

A 1998 one pence piece was found and also placed in the N. side of Trench 1. Right at the very bottom.

Ode To BERT

WE WORKED 'TILL WE DROPPED
THERE'S NO STONE HOLE IT'S PROPPED.

ROCK OF AGES STANDING STILL
BUT THE STRATIGRAPHY'S ONLY
BACKFILL.

IF THE WEATHER IS FINE
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

IF THE WEATHER IS MIST
JUST GO AND GET PISSED.

BUT SUN, SNOW, WIND AND RAIN
NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE BACK AGAIN

23/6/1998

↑
(later - it is actually a bit of a naff poem - I should have put Jeremy in - see p. 37.)

(85)

Morning tea break

The thick mist still hasn't cleared, so me and Chris feel like grave diggers, sumptuously (sp?) disturbing the dead.

Bakewell tarts for an after-backfill party here at the northern stone circle.

12-40 pm.

Looking at the spoil heap, we will have too much, so trampling has begun, and the process has turned into a jig. Chris has started Morris dancing.

The bottle has been written and placed beneath Bert the standing stone, along with a 1990 5pence piece.

A 1998 one pence piece was found and also placed in the N. side of Trench 1. Right at the very bottom.

(86)

Ode To Bert

WE WORKED IT TILL WE DROPPED
THERE'S NO STONE HOLE IT'S PROPPED.

ROCK OF AGES STANDING STILL
BUT THE STRATIGRAPHY'S ONLY
BACKFILL.

IF THE WEATHER IS FINE
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

IF THE WEATHER IS MIST
JUST GO AND GET ASSED.

BUT SUN, SNOW, WIND AND RAIN
NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE BACK AGAIN

23/6/1998

↑
(later - it is actually a bit of a naff poem - I should have put Jeremy in - see p. 37.)

(87)

7-50 pm

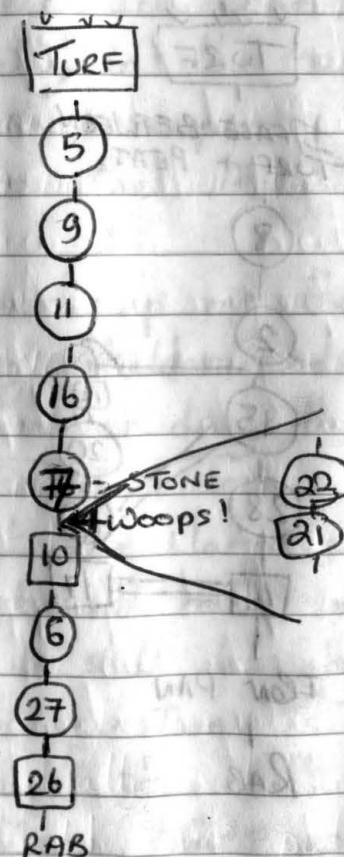
Piglet is filthy!

8.50 pm

Why am I doing so much work? I hope it's not all rubbish.

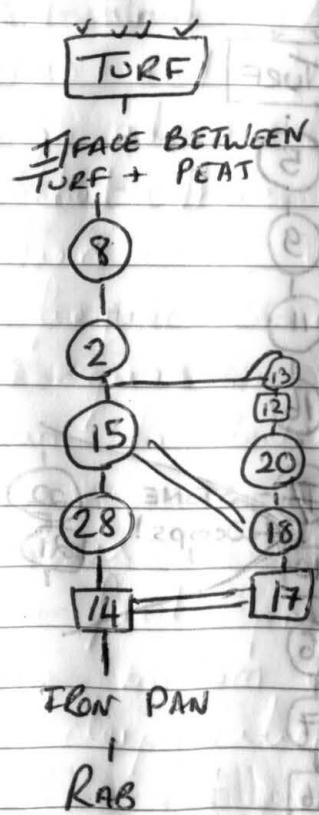
(88)

MATRIX - TRENCH 2



(89)

MATRIX - TRENCH 1



(90)

26th June, 98

A few parting comments...

Today was spent finishing off the paperwork. They are perhaps the messiest context sheets I've written, but they were all done in progress, and not neatly in the caravan on the last day with a cup of tea and Neighbours on the telly.

As for a round-up of the trenches, in the words of Mulder and Scully, I cannot confirm or deny the existence of a stone circle. Trench 1 gave us the likelihood that the large stone ① had been dug out and moved not too far away, as it is still close by (or top even). The ultimate question is when? At first, we thought it was in ~~modern~~ relatively modern times as the first side of the trench looked as though ~~the~~

(91)

the land surface had been cut into. On the other side, the ~~stratum~~ deposit where the cut lay was so indistinct it was hard to tell. The sections told a better story, although the pea-grit land surface did not completely seal the cut, as a look at section drawings T1 and T2 will show.

Pollen samples and R14 samples were taken, although at the time it was commented that there was quite a lot of contamination - the word "dodgy" was used quite frequently. And, of course, the ultimate question, how long does it take iron pan to develop?

Trench 2 was all a bit mysterious. Bert was in fact propped up, and resting in the bottom of cut 10. There are several interpretations to the origins of the cut, which may have been created to prop up the stone, and over time ~~the stone had~~

(92)

(however long that is) the surrounding cut has been disturbed by animals, etc. The box section exposed a possible cut beneath cut 10 full of redeposited natural and quite disturbed. Was this where stone 7 originally lay? I think most of the questions will be solved in post-excavation.

Off to the bar now after Patrick's interview. (Hm...).